GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1222
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
LINKING OF CANALS WITH RIVERS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link canals with rivers and also to interlink certain rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to link Krishna and Mahanadi to Godavari, and Cauvery to Vaigal;

(c) the specific programme drawn up for the purpose and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministryo f Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Developmentwhich envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from presently assessed surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Governmento f India has established the Naitonal Water Development Agency (NWDA)as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan.Under the Peninsular Component of the National Perspective Plan, inter- linking of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery andVaigai is envisaged. NWDA has completed water balance and prefeasibility studies of all the link proposals and has identified 30 links for preparation of feasibility report. Tentative estimated cost (at 1995-96 price level) o f the proposed identified links of National Perspective Plan i s put at Rs.3,30,000 crore. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds.